

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 DHA-02 /100 W

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P 140041Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2855

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, SHUM

SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE--RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

REF: A. USUN 4687; B. USUN 4923

1. USUN DRAWS ATTENTION OF DEPT TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES THAT ARE EXPECTED TO FLOW FROM IMPENDING ACTION IN THRID COMITE. AS DEPT AWARE, VARIOUS ARAB DELS HAVE BEEN WORKING TO HAVE UNGA UNCLUE ZIONISM AS A FORM OF RACISM TO BE ERADICATED UNDER THE PROGRAM OF THE DECADE TO ELIMINATE RACISM AND ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. GIVEN NEW ARAB TACTIC TO EXPAND SCOPE OF CON- DEMNATION OF ZIONISM AND INADEQUATE POSITIONS BEING TAKEN BY MANY DELEGATIONS, DIFFICULT SITUATION IS DEVELOPING IN THIRD COMITE.

2. ORIGINALLY, ARABS SUBMITTED AMENDMENTS (SEE REF (A)) TO RES ON DRAFT PROGRAM FOR THE DECADE. THE AMENDMENTS WOULD EXPLICITLY INCLUDE "ZIONISM" AS A FORM OF RACISM TO BE ELIMINATED. THESE AMENDMENTS MET SUFFICIENT RESISTANCE IN COMITE FROM WESTERNERS AND SOME AFRICANS THAT ARAB COSPONSORS ASKED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THIS ITEM TO BE POSTPONED. DURING WEEK-LONG POSTPONEMENT, ARABS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING SEPARATE DRAFT RES (REF (B)), THE ONE OPERATIVE PARA OF WHICH STATES "DETERMINES THAT ZIONISM IS A FORM OF RACISM AND RECIAL DISCRIMINATION."

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3. USUN REQUESTED INFORMAL OPINION OF UN LEGAL ADVISER AS TO

WHETHER THE ACTUAL EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED RES WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ANY DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF THE AMENDMENT PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED. HE REPLIED THAT THE RESULT WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME. HE ADDED THAT THE SEPARATE RES, AS OPPOSED TO THE AMENDMENTS, BY REDEFINING WHAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION INCLUDES, WOULD SEEM TO ENLARGE THE SCOPE OF ALL OTHER UN RESES ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT ARAB INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO ZIONISM WAS FORESTALLED LAST WEEK BY UNITED POSITION OF WESTERN EUROPEANS, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND US TO VOTE AGAINST ENTIRE RES IF AMENDMENTS CARRIED. THIS POSITION ENCOURAGED MODERATE AFRICANS TO STAND UP TO ARAB ATTEMPT TO TURN RES ON RACISM INTO CONTROVERSIAL DRAFT WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR STATUS OF ISRAEL IN UN AND INCLUSION OF ZIONISM IN LENGTHY LIST ON UN EVILS TO BE ERADICATED. HOWEVER, IF RES IS INTRODUCED IN LIEU OF AMENDMENTS, POSITION OF EC9, ON WHICH POSITION OF NUMBER OF OTHER WESTERNERS HINGES, IS DOUBTFUL. EC9 WOULD NOT SUPPORT RES ON DECADE IN PLENARY IF SEPARATE RES ON ZIONISM IS ADOPTED IN COMITE. BUT MOST APPEAR MORE INCLINED TO ABSTAIN THAN TO VOTE AGAINST.

5. USUN NEEDS URGENT GUIDANCE ON WHETHER DEPT DISAGREES WITH UN LEGAL EVALUATION OF CONSEQUENCES OF PASSAGE OF SEPARATE RES. IF WE HAVE FIRM POSITION IN LINE WITH THAT OF UN, USUN WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO MOVE KEY EUROPEAN DELS TO A NEGATIVE STANCE ON THE ENTIRE PACKAGE OF RESES BEFORE THE COMITE. THIS MUST BE DONE IF SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE IS TO BE DEVELOPED WITH AFRICAN GROUP TO BEAT THE ARAB MANEUVERS ON THE MERITS. WITHOUT A FIRM WESTERN POSITION THE AFRICANS ARE LIKELY TO ACQUIESCE IN ARAB DEMANDS, AND AT PRESENT TIME A SOUNDLY PRESENTED ARGUMENT ON IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED RES ON ZIONISM IS NEEDED TO KEEP OUR EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES OPPOSING COMPLETELY AND FORCEFULLY THIS OBJECTION-
ABLE MANEUVER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ZIONISM, RESOLUTIONS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN04977
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750355-0382
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751057/aaaabzda.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THIRD COMMITTEE--RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
TAGS: SHUM, IS, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006